

Posted on: June 30, 2012

Local Emergency Declared; Cooling Shelter to Open

*****FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*****

(Christiansburg, Virginia) – A local emergency has been declared in the Town of Christiansburg and Montgomery County in response to the damage caused by yesterday's storm.

Residents without power are encouraged to seek shelter and relief from the heat at a friend's or relative's house.

If this is not an option, residents of Montgomery County and Christiansburg are encouraged to proceed to an emergency cooling shelter that will be opened beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday at the new Christiansburg Middle School, 1205 Buffalo Drive NW, Christiansburg. Please use the "community entrance" on the left hand side of the building.

The shelter is expected to remain open until 9 p.m.

Please be advised the shelter will operate under the following conditions:

- Only a small snack and water will be available
- No meals will be provided
- Bring needed medication
- Ice will only be provided for medication that needs to be kept cool
- Bring a blanket or chair and a water bottle/cup
- Bring personal hygiene items and keep additional personal belongings to a minimum
- Only service animals will be allowed; no exceptions

Please make sure to check on your neighbors and let them know that the cooling shelter is available if they need it.

Residents are otherwise discouraged from traveling, as power lines and trees remain down across the county and some traffic lights remain out.

Christiansburg residents: please pile brush and fallen tree limbs near the edge of the roadway and Town crews will begin picking up the debris on Monday.

To report a power outage or check on the status of an outage, please call Appalachian Power at (800) 956-4237.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

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